

# LARIMER COUNTY

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

2023 Annual  
Report



January 2024

Board of County Commissioners:

This annual report outlines the Environmental and Science Advisory Board's (ESAB) activities in 2023.

The ESAB continued to work on important topics of discussion that included the County's response to ground level ozone non-attainment, the Climate Smart and Future Ready Phase 3 engagement, the County Water Master Plan engagement, the County's Pollinator Policy, Sustainability Policy, as well as several other important environmental topics affecting Larimer County.

A hallmark of the ESAB is the annual Environmental Stewardship Awards. In 2023 five local projects were recognized for their outstanding environmental stewardship. A fun fact: 2023 marked the 100th Stewardship Award given to a worthy local project since the Award program started in 1995.

Additional information about the Advisory Board, including full minutes for its meetings, is available on the County's website at: <https://www.larimer.org/boards/environmental-and-science-advisory-board>.

We would like to acknowledge County staff for their continued help and commitment to sound environmental management. In 2023, representatives from the Departments of Health and Environment, Natural Resources, Planning, Solid Waste, and the Climate and Sustainability program attended meetings to present on important topics. Most meetings were held in person with a virtual option.

We hope that the feedback we provided was useful for the County. Please feel free to contact me, or any of our members, if you would like to discuss specific issues in greater detail.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodger Ames".

Rodger Ames, Chair for 2023

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# **2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LARIMER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD**

**January 2024**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Larimer County Commissioners established the Environmental Advisory Board in 1993. The name of the board was changed to the Environmental and Science Advisory Board (ESAB) in 2013. In July of 2021 the Board was expanded from 12 at-large members to up to 15 at-large members, appointed by the County Commissioners. Also, one Youth Member seat was added in November of 2023.

The primary role of the Board is to advise the Board of County Commissioners and appropriate County departments on environmental and science-related issues that affect Larimer County. Items considered by the ESAB come from the Commissioners, County staff, the community, and our own members.

The Advisory Board typically meets on the second Tuesday of each month and on an as-needed basis for special work sessions. The first agenda item of each meeting is devoted to hearing public comments about environmental issues. The list of agenda items along with invited guest speakers that attended the ESAB meetings in 2023 is presented in Section II of this report.

Section III outlines the status of current issues that board members are working on, and the written correspondence provided by the Board is included in the Appendix.

The ESAB uses an issue index to keep track of the various issues that the board monitors and addresses. This index is updated monthly.

John Kefalas served as the County Commissioner Liaison to the Environmental and Science Advisory Board for 2023 and Shelley Bayard de Volo, from the Engineering Department, remained as the staff facilitator throughout 2023.

## **II. DISCUSSION TOPICS AND MEMBER UPDATES IN 2023**

Presentation slides and/or other materials are available upon request to ESAB Chair or the Staff Liaison.

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>
<b>January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Workplan - review and approve</li><li>• Update ESAB Bylaws - select sub-committee</li></ul> <p>UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commissioner's Update - Commissioner Kefalas</li><li>• Environmental Stewardship Awards - Shelley</li></ul>
<b>February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• County's Response to ESAB AQ Monitoring Proposal - Chris Manley, Dept. Health and Environment with comments from invited guests Dr. Emily Fischer/ Dr. Jeff Collett</li><li>• CC4CA County Membership, County Environmental Policy Update, EDI Effort, Colorado EnviroScreen, XCEL Partners in Energy Update - Heidi Pruess, Climate and Sustainability Program</li><li>• Request and approval for ESAB member to serve on County Water Master Plan RFP review team - Shelley and Rodger</li><li>• Request and approval for ESAB member to serve on County Pollinator Policy development team - Matt Lafferty, Community Development</li></ul> <p>UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bylaws committee coordination/needs</li><li>• Commissioner's Update - Commissioner Kefalas</li><li>• Update on NISP and Chimney Hollow - Travis</li><li>• Update on Climate Smart Future Ready - Tasha and Ted</li><li>• EV planning workshop – Shelby</li><li>• CO Legislative Session - potential legislation that might impact Larimer County that issue coordinators should track.</li></ul>

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<b>MONTH</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>
<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESAB Bylaws Update - Jim and subcommittee Poudre River Forum Follow-Up - Travis</li> <li>• Selection of Environmental Stewardship Awards sub-committee</li> </ul> <p>UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Smart and Future Ready - Tasha</li> <li>• Air Quality Monitoring – Katrina</li> <li>• Upcoming Issues and Future Presentations – Shelby</li> <li>• ESAB Recruitment open until 3/26 - Shelley</li> </ul>
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore 22 - Dept. of Natural Resources Project to Restore Native Habitats in Devil's Backbone and Eagle's Nest Open Spaces – Zac Wiebe, Dept. of Natural Resources</li> <li>• Environmental Stewardship Awards Nominee Recommendations - Travis and Subcommittee PFAS Regulatory Update - Cat</li> <li>• Draft Bylaws - Jim and Subcommittee</li> </ul> <p>UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner's Update- Commissioner Kefalas</li> <li>• Climate Smart Future Ready – Tasha.</li> </ul>
<b>May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CANCELLED</li> </ul>
<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid Waste update - Jim</li> <li>• Larimer County Pollinator Resolution - Tasha, Shelley</li> </ul> <p>UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Smart and Future Ready update – Tasha</li> <li>• Larimer Water Plan RFP Summary – Travis</li> <li>• Water Education Series – All members</li> <li>• Bylaws update - Shelley</li> <li>• Recognition of outgoing members and certificates – Rodger and Shelby</li> <li>• Environmental Stewardship Awards update - Shelley</li> </ul>

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<b>MONTH</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>
<b>July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of new Community Development Director - Rebecca Everette</li> <li>• Larimer Conservation District's Watershed Restoration Programs - Matt Marshall and Gretchen Reuning</li> <li>• Air Pollution Control Division proceedings/ozone SIP rule-making - Chris Wood</li> </ul> <p>UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner's Update - Commissioner Kefalas</li> <li>• CSFR - Tasha</li> <li>• 2023 Colorado Water Plan – Nicole</li> <li>• Environmental Stewardship Awards update - Shelley</li> </ul>
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Communication - Dr. Pielke, Center for Science and Technology Policy Research, CU Boulder</li> <li>• CC4CA Policy Statement and Larimer County Environmental Climate, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Policy - Heidi Pruess, LC Climate and Sustainability Program Manager.</li> <li>• Air Quality Monitoring update - Dr.s Emily Fischer and Jeffrey Collett Jr., CSU Atmospheric Science</li> </ul> <p>UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner's Update - Commissioner Kefalas</li> <li>• Issue Index and Work Plan</li> <li>• Meeting Recordings</li> </ul>

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<b>MONTH</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-fire restoration and incorporating wildfire mitigation to increase watersheds resiliency before a fire - Hally Strevey, Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed</li> <li>• Our Lands Our Future Partnership survey - Jenn Almstead and Zac Wiebe, Dept. of Natural Resources</li> <li>• Larimer County's Climate, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Policy: ESAB comments for discussion.</li> <li>• Issue Index - review issues and update</li> </ul> <p><b>UPDATES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner's Update - Commissioner Kefalas</li> <li>• Selecting Representative for Water Master Plan</li> <li>• CSFR – Ted</li> <li>• Air Quality Community Advisory Group - Rodger</li> </ul>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colorado Climate Center 2023 Report - Russ Schumacher, Dept. of Atmospheric Science, CSU</li> <li>• Climate, Environmental Responsibility, and Sustainability Policy: comments for approval - Rodger Ames</li> </ul> <p><b>UPDATES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner's Update - Commissioner Kefalas</li> <li>• Approving Representative for County Water Master Plan Advisory Group – Nicole and Anna</li> <li>• State water regulations, WOTUS and gap waters- Nicole</li> <li>• Air Quality Community Advisory Group – Rodger</li> <li>• EV Road map and Partners in Energy – Shelby</li> <li>• Colorado Energy Office and the State's GHG roadmap - Chris</li> </ul>

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<b>MONTH</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on the Larimer County Solid Waste Infrastructure Master Plan - Duane Penney, Director of Solid Waste and Lesli Ellis, Director Community Planning, Infrastructure, and Resources.</li> <li>• Review and update of Issue Index - Rodger Ames and Board.</li> </ul> <p>UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner's Update - Commissioner Kefalas</li> <li>• Climate Smart Larimer County - Ted</li> <li>• Larimer County Water Master Plan - Nicole and Anna</li> </ul>
<b>December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 Annual Report, - DRAFT</li> <li>• 2024 Board Elections</li> </ul> <p>UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner's Update - Commissioner Kefalas</li> <li>• TAG and WAG membership</li> <li>• 1041 legislation</li> <li>• Poudre River Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan for NISP</li> <li>• State of Colorado Climate Preparedness Roadmap</li> <li>• Legislation upcoming on non-functional turf grass</li> </ul>

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### **III. STATUS OF ESAB RECOMMENDATIONS IN 2023**

The table below outlines the formal recommendations made by the Advisory Board and provides a brief statement about the status of those recommendations. As an advisory board, the ESAB's written recommendations are submitted to the Board of County Commissioners or a requesting County department. The actual correspondence is shown in the Appendix.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Principal ESAB Actions and Recommendations</b>	<b>Status</b>
ESAB Bylaws	The ESAB bylaws subcommittee reviewed and edited the ESAB bylaws (previous version May 2021). Their editing involved comparing the bylaws with the County's Administrative Policy and Procedures 100.1I (June 28, 2019) and ensuring there were no conflicts between the two documents.	The updated bylaws were board approved and sent to the Board Staff liaison (Shelley), who provided them to the County Assistant Manager, who accepted them for consideration. (Appendix A).
Pollinator Species Protection Policy	Matt Lafferty, Community Planning, requested that the ESAB, through a sub-committee, provide comments on the draft Pollinator Protection Policy. The Board approved Tasha Carr, Ally Little and Barry Noon to serve. Tasha Carr served as the committee chair.	Tasha Carr provided her comments to Matt Lafferty (Appendix B) The comments were reviewed by the Board at a later meeting.
Climate, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Policy	The ESAB reviewed and commented on the January 13, 2023 draft of the Policy at their November meeting.	Comments were provided to Heidi Pruess, Climate and Sustainability Program Manager (Appendix C).

#### **IV. ONGOING COMMITTEE WORK**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Principal ESAB Activities</b>	<b>Active ESAB members</b>
Ozone and Air Quality Monitoring. Participation of the Air Quality Monitoring Advisory Committee (AQMAC)	ESAB is working with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment and the City of Fort Collins on their air quality monitoring program. Rodger is serving on the AQMAC with Katrina and Chris as alternates	Rodger Ames Katrina Winborn-Miller Chris Wood
Climate Smart and Future Ready - Phase 3	The ESAB is supporting community engagement by sitting on the community education and communication Task Force.	Tasha Carr (1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2023) Ted Hendrickx (2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2023 and ongoing)
Larimer County Water Master Plan	Serve on the Water Advisory Group (WAG) and provide updates to the Board on the WAG's activities	Nicole Poncelet-Johnson Anna Cloud

## **V. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARDS**

Each year, the Environmental & Science Advisory Board and the Board of County Commissioners recognize significant environmental efforts of county residents, businesses, organizations and/or agencies by awarding the Larimer County Environmental Stewardship Awards. These Environmental Stewardship Awards were first issued by Larimer County in 1995 and as of this year the BOCC have presented 100 awards.

The board looks for individual or group activities that are innovative and proactive, and that demonstrate exceptional effort and concern for the stewardship of the environment. Projects can be either one-time efforts, or ongoing activities. Both types are judged on their degree of difficulty and the results they achieve. Each year the Environmental and Science Advisory Board solicits nominations, reviews them and makes recommendations for the awards to the Board of County Commissioners.

In 2023, the ESAB reviewed nine nominations, all of which provided examples of the important activities local citizens are engaged in to protect and improve our environment. The recommended five projects produced positive environmental results locally and provided good examples of what others can do. These five were recommended to the BoCC for consideration of the award and were ultimately presented with their Stewardship Award at a public ceremony by the BoCC. The 2023 awardees were:

### **North Fork Cache la Poudre River Site Conservation Team - Preble's Mouse Recovery Through Local Engagement and Riparian Habitat Improvements**

The Preble's meadow jumping mouse is a threatened species found only on the Front Range of Colorado and Southern Wyoming. To recover the species, the US Fish & Wildlife Service formed local Site Conservation Teams (SCT) comprised of local stakeholders who work to improve riparian habitats on their lands.

Since 2019, the North Fork Poudre SCT worked to identify 102 stream miles of riparian habitat suitable for the mouse. They've worked with landowners interested in improving the riparian habitats on their properties and the team serves as a model for several other SCTs working in other watersheds along the Front Range.

By focusing on riparian habitats, their work not only helps recover the Preble's mouse in Larimer County, but it also helps to support the many other species reliant on healthy riparian habitats and streams.

### **Rocky Mountain Flycasters – Restoring Greenback Cutthroat Trout in Larimer County**

Back 40 Land Management provides restoration and management services for

privately held community open spaces, pasturelands, and rural sites. Their work includes developing a multi-year plan to control noxious weeds, restore vegetation, and manage wetlands. Their planning also integrates the landowner's interests for improving pastureland, enhancing ecosystems to better support wildlife, and creating low water-requirement native spaces.

They work with HOAs to reduce irrigated turf and convert these areas to native grasslands free of noxious weeds. Their conservation assistance services focus on improving soil stability, nutrient availability, and conserving native ecological communities to promote wildlife habitat and improve livestock forage.

David Cummings, owner of Back 40 Land Management, has created a business model for land management that promotes native landscapes and water conservation in Larimer County. This service provides HOAs and other large lot property owners with native and sustainable alternatives to resource consumptive landscapes.

### **Back 40 Land Management - Restoring Ecosystems through Weed Management and Establishing Native Grasslands**

Back 40 Land Management provides restoration and management services for privately held community open spaces, pasturelands, and rural sites. Their work includes developing a multi-year plan to control noxious weeds, restore vegetation, and manage wetlands. Their planning also integrates the landowner's interests for improving pastureland, enhancing ecosystems to better support wildlife, and creating low water-requirement native spaces.

They work with HOAs to reduce irrigated turf and convert these areas to native grasslands free of noxious weeds. Their conservation assistance services focus on improving soil stability, nutrient availability, and conserving native ecological communities to promote wildlife habitat and improve livestock forage.

David Cummings, owner of Back 40 Land Management, has created a business model for land management that promotes native landscapes and water conservation in Larimer County. This service provides HOAs and other large lot property owners with native and sustainable alternatives to resource consumptive landscapes.

### **Broadcom - Kamran Azad**

Broadcom is a semiconductor chip manufacturer who is reducing its greenhouse gas emissions [GHG] through point-of-use abatement technology. Chip manufacturing is a significant source of GHG emissions, and Broadcom has systematically reduced its emissions for over 10 years, before legal limits were enacted. They recognized the importance of using sustainable manufacturing practices while creating some of the world's most advanced wireless technology.

Broadcom began installing GHG abatement units at its Larimer County facility in 2012 and has been adding more units every year since. Between 2012 and 2016 Broadcom experienced a sharp increase in production as demand for wireless technology grew. In response, and as abatement technology became more reliable, Broadcom aggressively installed abatement units on their high-emitting tools between 2015 and 2022.

By January 2023, Broadcom completed the installation of over 30 abatement units which remain in production today, reducing Broadcom's total greenhouse gas emissions by 73%. As a major employer in Larimer County, Broadcom recognizes the important role it plays in our local community as a global company supporting sustainable business practices.

### **Roberts Ranch - Improving Working Rangelands through Conservation Grazing Practices**

Founded in 1876, the Roberts Ranch has long legacy in the Livermore area. In recent years, the Ranch has transitioned from a traditional to an adaptive and restorative grazing operation on its entire 13,000 acres.

The Ranch's project started in 2020 when Leachman Cattle of Colorado was awarded the Roberts Ranch grazing lease from the Nature Conservancy, which holds the property's conservation easement. Leachman Cattle partnered with SnapLands LLC, who monitors the Ranch's targeted grazing program. The program annually measures soil fertility, drought resiliency, wildfire resiliency, ecosystem services, soil carbon sequestration, education and community outreach, and animal well-being through low-stress stockmanship.

Improved rangeland health and livestock performance are both positive outcomes of the adaptive planned grazing strategy. Over the past 3-years the three, very divergent parties have come together to create a shared vision to restore the land and livestock vitality of the Roberts Ranch.

## VI. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Member Seat</b>	<b>Recruitment Cohort</b>	<b>Status for 2023</b>
Rodger Ames, Chair	1	A	Active
Christopher Wood	2	A	Active
John Bleem	3	A	Term ended June 2023
Andrew Newman	3	A	Term began July 2023
Matthew Haag	4	A	Term began July 2023
Travis Rounsville	4	A	Term ended June 2023
Nicole Poncelet-Johnson	5	A	Term began July 2023
Catriona Smith	5	A	Term ended June 2023
Tasha Carr	6	B	Active
Barry Noon	7	B	Active
Jim Gerek	8	B	Active
Kaitlin Rainsberger	9	B	Resigned February 2023
Natalie Walsh	9	B	Term began July 2023
Daniel Beveridge	10	B	Term ended June 2023
Anna Cloud	10	B	Term began July 2023
Ted Hendrickx	11	C	Active
Allyson Little	12	C	Active
George Rinker	13	C	Active
Shelby Sommer, Vice-Chair	14	C	Active
Katrina Winborn-Miller	15	C	Active
Lark Murphy	16-YM	D	Youth Member - Nov 2023

*This list includes all Advisory Board members who served during the year. At any given time, the Board consists of a maximum of fifteen members plus one youth member.*

*Recruitment Cohorts: C = 2021-2024; B= 2022-2025; A = 2023-2026; D=2023-2024.*

## **VII. ESAB WORK PLANNING PROCESS**

The work planning process provides the general direction that the ESAB considers taking each year. Because conditions or priorities in the County can change, a considerable degree of flexibility needs to be maintained.

**Overall:** The ESAB strives to inform, and be informed about, County government-related policies, decisions, issues and actions that have environmental, community and economic implications. To that end the ESAB will:

1. Serve as an informational resource that provides unbiased and science-based recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and County departments, and other County Advisory Boards pointing out areas of uncertainty and suggesting appropriate ways to address them;
2. Identify environmental and science-based issues and opportunities for the consideration of the County Commissioners so that the BoCC can be proactive in their responsibilities to the environment and the community. To that end, the ESAB will solicit, from its membership, ideas with respect to current environmental issues, and develop a consensus of the most relevant topics to be forwarded to the BoCC;
3. Work with the ESAB Commissioner Liaison to set workplan priorities that meet the needs of the Commissioner's workplan;
4. Develop and maintain an attitude of trust and respect among the ESAB, the Commissioners, County departments and other boards and commissions;
5. Foster a cooperative working relationship with local and state organizations who are connected to topics the ESAB considers as part of their Issue Index; and
6. Provide updates on current environmental topics to enhance the common knowledge of its members.

**Response to Referrals or Requests:**

1. Respond in a timely manner to issues raised by the BoCC, County departments, other boards and commissions, and ESAB members; and
2. Facilitate the response to community questions/comments received by the Advisory Board in cooperation with the BoCC and appropriate County departments.

**Current Environmental Topics:**

1. Consider the regional implications of important environmental issues and consider ways to address those issues across local jurisdictional boundaries.

2. Monitor important water issues including long-term watershed planning, water quality and significant proposed water projects.
3. Monitor solid waste management issues such as landfill operations like recycling and hazardous waste disposal.
4. Monitor the status of conventional, renewable and alternative energy development and as requested, consult with County departments and the BoCC regarding potential environmental implications.
5. Consider important ecological impacts associated with large-scale events such as wildfire, floods, droughts, climate change and biological events (i.e., emerald ash borer, pine bark beetle). Promote the incorporation of wildfire preparedness (e.g., Firewise USA development), resiliency, mitigation, and recovery into planning and emergency management of such large-scale events.
6. Support the creation and revision of major County policies and plans, including the Water Master Plan, the Climate Smart and Future Ready program, and the Internal Action, Climate, Resilience and Education (ICARE) Plan.
7. Consider policies and mechanisms to support the County's air quality monitoring objectives.
8. Inform County leadership of the integration of diversity, equity, and inclusion with all above topics.

Stewardship Awards:

1. Coordinate the County's annual Environmental Stewardship Awards in partnership with the BoCC.

Communications and Process:

1. Maintain open communications with the County Commissioner liaison assigned to the ESAB in order to facilitate dialogue about environmental concerns or issues identified by either the BoCC or the Advisory Board;
2. Use the Commissioners' Work Sessions and Administrative Matters meetings, as appropriate, for communication on important environmental and science issues as they arise;
3. Provide knowledgeable ESAB members, as requested, to participate with ad hoc County Task Forces and Stakeholder Groups addressing topics with environmental and/or science implications; and
4. Assign to interested ESAB members monitoring tasks for select environmental issues, and providing periodic updates to the full Advisory Board.

## **APPENDIX: WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE**

These documents were prepared by the Environmental and Science Advisory Board as part of their activities in 2023.

- A. April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The approved bylaws were submitted to the ESAB staff liaison via email. The staff liaison submitted the updated bylaws to the Assistant County Manager, who accepted them for consideration.
- B. May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Comments on the draft Pollinator Protection Policy. Matt Lafferty requested the ESAB provide comments on the draft policy. Comments were provided from Tasha Carr to Matt Lafferty via email.
- C. October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Comments on the Climate, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Policy were provided from the ESAB to Heidi Pruess via email.

APPENDIX A  
Update to the ESAB Board's Bylaws



Shelley Bayard de Volo &lt;bayardsh@co.larimer.co.us&gt;

## Board Approved Bylaws

**Shelley Bayard de Volo** <sbayard@larimer.org>

Tue, Apr 18, 2023 at 1:52 PM

To: Jim Gerek &lt;jmgerek@frontiernet.net&gt;

Cc: Rodger Ames &lt;rodger.b.ames@gmail.com&gt;, Shelby Sommer &lt;shelbyasommer@gmail.com&gt;

Thank you Jim for your's and the committee's work on this. I will follow-up to see what the nexsteps are for approval.

Shelley

On Tue, Apr 18, 2023 at 1:16 PM Jim Gerek <jmgerek@frontiernet.net> wrote:

Shelley:

Attached are the revised bylaws as approved by the ESAB at their meeting last Tuesday April 11. These HAVE BEEN adjusted to include the small friendly amendment offered at the meeting - changing an inadvertent "his or her" to "their" to make it more gender-neutral.

As noted at the meeting there are still some minor formatting issues with this version that should not affect the substance of the text - most notably variations in line spacing, indents and bullet types. Most likely these are figments of various rounds of editing and changes over the years. For a more professional and consistent look "someone" should probably just blow away ALL formatting and apply brand new formatting to the entire document. (Perhaps you have a Dept Admin who is facile with MS Word that could do this?)

I know that these changes ultimately need the formal approval of the BoCC (Commissioner Kefalas informally indicated to me that he was OK with the changes and thanked "us" for doing it) and you noted to me that you thought that the County Legal Dept needed their whack at the document too. I'll leave it to you, with Rodger and Shelby's direction, to manage this.

If you need anything else from me or our sub-committee, please just let me know.

Jim Gerek

--  
**Shelley Bayard de Volo**  
Environmental Coordination Specialist  
Environmental and Science Advisory Board Liaison

Engineering Department  
200 W Oak St, Fort Collins, 80521 | 3rd Floor  
W: (970) 498-5738 | M: (970) 481-5941  
[sbayard@larimer.org](mailto:sbayard@larimer.org) | [www.larimer.org/engineering](http://www.larimer.org/engineering)



Shelley Bayard de Volo <[bayardsh@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:bayardsh@co.larimer.co.us)>

## ESAB Bylaws Update

Brenda Gimeson <[gimesobl@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:gimesobl@co.larimer.co.us)>  
 To: Shelley Bayard de Volo <[bayardsh@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:bayardsh@co.larimer.co.us)>  
 Cc: Brenda Gimeson <[bgimeson@larimer.org](mailto:bgimeson@larimer.org)>, Sarah Martin <[martinse@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:martinse@co.larimer.co.us)>, Tina Kurtz <[kurtztm@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:kurtztm@co.larimer.co.us)>, Traci Shambo <[shambotl@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:shambotl@co.larimer.co.us)>, Caryn Nezat <[nezatca@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:nezatca@co.larimer.co.us)>

Mon, Apr 24, 2023 at 2:01 PM

Thank you Shelley. We will review them and get back to you. Please do not move these forward until you have received our comments.

Once all the comments have been returned, you will be the one to move them forward to the County Attorney's office for review and approval.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



**Brenda Gimeson**  
Business Operations Manager

Commissioners' Office  
 200 W Oak St | 2nd Floor  
 PO Box 1190, Fort Collins, CO 80522-1190  
 W: (970) 498-7012  
[bgimeson@larimer.org](mailto:bgimeson@larimer.org) | [www.larimer.org](http://www.larimer.org)

On Mon, Apr 24, 2023 at 10:21 AM Shelley Bayard de Volo <[bayardsh@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:bayardsh@co.larimer.co.us)> wrote:

Hi Brenda,

attached is the clean version that was approved at the last April meeting of the ESAB and the red-line changes from the currently approved bylaws.

Let me know if you are to bring this the County attorney or me.

Thanks - Shelley

On Thu, Apr 20, 2023 at 4:45 PM Brenda Gimeson <[gimesobl@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:gimesobl@co.larimer.co.us)> wrote:

Hi Shelley: Thanks for letting us know about the bylaw proposal. Are you able to send us a copy of the proposed changes?

Section XII of the [Policy](#) states that a copy of the bylaws must be sent to the Commissioners' Office prior to adoption for staff review. You will also want to make sure the County Attorney has reviewed the revised document and that your Commissioner Liaison is aware of the upcoming changes and is on board with the revisions. Once everyone is on board, you would submit those changes to an Admin Matters meeting for approval. At that time, the County Attorney's stamp would need to be affixed to the document and you would need to send to Sarah the final approved copy for our records and so she can update the webpage with the revised version.

Please let me know what other questions you have. Thank you.

Sincerely,



**Brenda Gimeson**  
Business Operations Manager

Commissioners' Office  
 200 W Oak St | 2nd Floor  
 PO Box 1190, Fort Collins, CO 80522-1190  
 W: (970) 498-7012  
[bgimeson@larimer.org](mailto:bgimeson@larimer.org) | [www.larimer.org](http://www.larimer.org)

# **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD**

## **BYLAWS**

Board Approved April 2023

### **ARTICLE I. Name and Location**

The name of this organization shall be the Larimer County Environmental and Science Advisory Board, and its principal place of business shall be Larimer County, Fort Collins, Colorado.

### **ARTICLE II. Role**

The role of the Environmental and Science Advisory Board is to advise the Board of County Commissioners and appropriate county departments on environmental and science-related issues that affect Larimer County.

In this role the Environmental and Science Advisory Board is considered a "Content Advice Advisory Board" and its members shall exhibit specialized professional, educational, or experience-based expertise in environmental and/or scientific fields.

In addition to these bylaws, the Advisory Board operates under the terms of the Larimer County Administrative Policy and Procedure 100.1J. A copy of that procedure, together with these bylaws, shall be provided to each member at the time of appointment.

### **ARTICLE III. Membership**

1. The Environmental and Science Advisory Board is composed of up to 15 voting members, chosen to serve three-year staggered terms in three groups with roughly equal size, and appointed annually by the Board of County Commissioners. These members shall reflect the requisite technical backgrounds, and in addition shall represent the diverse geographical and demographic backgrounds of the legal residents of Larimer County to the extent practicable. Members will be selected from the County at large; cities and towns may recommend individuals for membership.
2. Any vacancy on the Environmental and Science Advisory Board, except the Chair, shall be filled at the earliest convenience of the Board of County Commissioners. A vacancy of the Chair shall be filled automatically by the Vice-Chair at the time of the vacancy. A vacancy of the Vice-Chair may be filled at the discretion of the Advisory Board.
3. Advisory Board members having three or more unexcused absences in a calendar year may be replaced by the Board of County Commissioners. Written notification of potential dismissal from the Advisory Board will be provided by the Chair to the affected board member following a second unexcused absence within a calendar year.

4. In accordance with County policy, no Environmental and Science Advisory Board member may serve more than two consecutive terms, except that a member appointed to fill a vacancy may serve the remainder of the unexpired term and two consecutive terms. The Board of County Commissioners may make exceptions if the member is in a leadership role or is involved in a significant project.

## **ARTICLE IV. Meetings and Voting**

1. Monthly Meetings. Regular meetings of the Environmental and Science Advisory Board are the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 P.M. at the Larimer County Administrative Offices Building in Fort Collins, or as otherwise announced. All meetings and actions shall be in compliance with CRS 24-6-402 regarding Open Meetings, and any subsequent amendments to said statute.
2. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be requested by the Chair, or by a majority vote of the Advisory Board. Such special meetings shall be held at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meeting. Written or phone notice of such meetings shall be given by the Chair to the Advisory Board members at least five (5) days and not more than twenty-one (21) days prior to the meeting. Public notification shall be given for such meetings.
3. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the current voting members. The act of the majority of the voting members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board. In the event a quorum is not present at any meeting, the voting members may not take formal action, but at the discretion of the Chair may address informational items.
4. Deliberative Process.
  - a. The Advisory Board shall limit its business to its role/mission and defined tasks.
  - b. The Advisory Board shall use the Systematic Development of Informed Consent (SDIC) process as guidance for public participation, as defined in the Larimer County Public Participation Policy.
  - c. In significant Advisory Board matters it shall identify up front the type of decision to be made and the type of decision making process that shall be employed. Where possible the Advisory Board shall seek consensus in recommending items to the Board of County Commissioners or County Departments. Where this is not possible a recorded vote shall be taken on the decision, and the voting results shall be noted in the minutes.
5. Voting. Each voting member is entitled to one vote, with voting governed by parliamentary procedure according to Robert's Rules of Order.

## **ARTICLE V. Officers and Compensation**

1. Officers. The Environmental and Science Advisory Board shall elect from among their members a Chair and Vice-Chair at the last meeting of the current calendar year. Officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected.
2. Chair. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board and shall have the duties and powers normally invested in the office of Chair. The Chair shall enforce all by-laws and regulations of the Advisory Board. The Chair shall be the official spokesperson for the Board.
3. Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall carry out the Chair's duties in case of absence, incapacity, or resignation of the officer.
4. Compensation. No Advisory Board member shall receive any salary or payment for their services. Advisory Board members living more than 10 miles from the Larimer County Administrative Services Building may request mileage reimbursement for the purposes of in-person attendance at Advisory Board meetings.

## **ARTICLE VI. County Support**

1. Financial, technical, and clerical support of the Advisory Board shall be provided by the Board of County Commissioners' office through the County Manager, or as designated by the County Manager.
2. Commissioner Liaison. One member of the Board of County Commissioners shall be designated as the primary Liaison to the Advisory Board and may attend Advisory Board meetings. This Commissioner Liaison shall be the Advisory Board's primary conduit of work product to/from the Board of County Commissioners.
3. Staff Liaison. A County staff Liaison will be assigned to the Board and shall act as the liaison between the Board, the County Commissioners and County Departments.
  - a. The Staff Liaison shall provide overall day-to-day support of the Advisory Board.
  - b. The Staff Liaison shall coordinate communication with Advisory Board members including notification of meetings, project due dates, related external activities, etc.
  - c. In cooperation with the Chair, the Staff Liaison shall schedule meetings and other Advisory Board events.
  - d. The Staff Liaison shall post meeting agendas and minutes on County platforms in conjunction with relevant open meeting requirements.
  - e. The Staff Liaison may assist with recruitment of new members, and shall assist with orientation of newly-appointed members.

## **ARTICLE VII. Duties of Advisory Board and Members**

1. Management of Board Business. The Environmental and Science Advisory Board shall have general supervision and control of the business and affairs of the Advisory Board.
  - a) The Chair, Vice Chair and Staff Liaison shall set and publish an agenda for all meetings. Notice shall also be provided for any sub-committee meetings.
  - b) Minutes shall be prepared for all Advisory Board meetings and formal meetings of any sub-committee. After review and approval by the Advisory Board such minutes shall be made public.
  - c) Regular or *ad hoc* Sub-Committees may be formed as necessary with any of the Board Members acting as Chair of the Sub-Committee. Membership may be open to non-Advisory Board members as deemed advisable. Such Sub-Committees may be utilized to more fully consider certain matters and to bring a recommendation back to the full Advisory Board for consideration and approval.
  - d) The Advisory Board shall prepare an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners on its activities, accomplishments, and goals and objectives.
  - e) Early each calendar year the Advisory Board shall prepare a workplan that includes its planned key work products for the year. To the extent practicable this workplan shall reflect key milestones of the overall County annual workplan.
2. Board Member Responsibilities. All Advisory Board members are expected to be active participants in board activities and business, sharing their unique expertise and abilities.
  - a. Board members shall participate in orientation when newly assigned to the Advisory Board.
  - b. Board members shall assist in recruiting new technically-qualified members.
  - c. Board members may be assigned the role of Issue Coordinator to follow individual topics and share with the Advisory Board.
  - d. Board members may be assigned to represent Advisory Board interests on broader County Task Forces or Stakeholder Groups.
  - e. Board members shall disclose any potential conflicts of interest to the Chair and Staff Liaison. They shall demonstrate impartiality on any conflicted topic and shall abstain from any related voting.

## **ARTICLE VIII. Review and Amendments**

1. Annual Bylaw Review. Each year the Advisory Board shall review the suitability of these Bylaws to determine if any changes are necessary and/or appropriate.
2. Bylaw Amendments. The Environmental and Science Advisory Board shall have the power to amend such Bylaws as may seem expedient, subject to approval of the Board of County Commissioners. Amendments to these Bylaws may be voted on at any regular or special meeting, by a two-thirds

vote of voting members in attendance. No amendment shall be adopted unless a copy of such proposed amendment has been included in or enclosed with notice of such meeting. The Advisory Board shall not have the power, however, to pass any bylaws which would alter the status of the Advisory Board.

Adopted this XX Day of XXXXXX 2023

LARIMER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Rodger Ames, Chair

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By \_\_\_\_\_

Jody Shadduck-McNally, Chair

## APPENDIX B

### ESAB Comments on the County Pollinator Protection Policy



Shelley Bayard de Volo <bayardsh@co.larimer.co.us>

## ESAB Pollinator review committee

**Shelley Bayard de Volo** <bayardsh@co.larimer.co.us>  
To: Matthew Lafferty <laffermn@co.larimer.co.us>

Wed, Feb 15, 2023 at 1:05 PM

Hi Matt,

the ESAB's review committee is:

Tasha Carr - chair

committee members

Ally Little  
Barry Noon

--



**Shelley Bayard de Volo**  
Environmental Coordination Specialist  
Environmental and Science Advisory Board Liaison

Engineering Department  
200 W Oak St, Fort Collins, 80521 | 3rd Floor  
W: (970) 498-5738 | M: (970) 481-5941  
[sbayard@larimer.org](mailto:sbayard@larimer.org) | [www.larimer.org/engineering](http://www.larimer.org/engineering)



Shelley Bayard de Volo &lt;bayardsh@co.larimer.co.us&gt;

## Comments on draft Pollinator species protection

Tasha Carr &lt;tkotliar@msn.com&gt;

Fri, May 26, 2023 at 1:55 PM

To: Matthew Lafferty <laffermn@co.larimer.co.us>, Rodger Ames <rodger.b.ames@gmail.com>, Shelley Bayard de Volo <sbayard@larimer.org>, Allyson Little <allyson.c.little@gmail.com>, Barry Noon <barry.noon@colostate.edu>, John Kefalas <kefalajm@co.larimer.co.us>

Dear Matt,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft "Pollinator Species Protections Policy Statement."

I am providing my comments as a member of the Environmental and Science Advisory Board, but my comments do not reflect the opinions of the entire Board. There will be an opportunity for the ESAB to discuss the draft policy at our next meeting on June 13, 2023.

My primary goal, as a member of the ESAB, is to ensure that County policies are based on sound science. While I acknowledge the growing concern and increasing evidence of population declines for some native and non-native species of pollinators (e.g., bee and butterfly species) and the ramifications for agriculture and native plants, it is important to not overstate the scientific evidence and the magnitude of the documented problem. For most pollinators, we lack evidence of any population trends. Different pollinator species and taxa (mammals, birds, and a large variety of insects) will have different sensitivity and specific vulnerabilities, as well as habitat requirements.

There is compelling evidence to justify efforts to reduce our reliance on pesticides and herbicides whenever feasible. These chemicals are not only harmful to pollinators, but can be harmful to humans as well. But this is not a one-size fits all situation and blanket policy statements should be avoided.

Larimer County has played, and will continue to play, an important role in restoring damaged open lands and applying best practices that minimize harm from such chemical use where possible. It is valuable to address the cost/benefits of any policy or strategy on pollinators. For example, monocultures of invasive cheatgrass are unlikely to be used by native pollinator species at-risk, so risk of harm may be limited compared to the benefit of herbicide control.

In addition, sharing information with citizens of the County about pollinators at-risk and what residents can do to minimize harm and promote plantings that are pollinator friendly on their property and community open space, is a valuable service that the County can provide.

Here are my overall recommendations. Additional comments are on the attached document.

1. I suggest that the Policy Statement be restricted to focus only on: a) restoration and application of best practices by the County and b) information sharing with the public to enhance pollinator populations. I strongly suggest that any topics that are not directly supported by scientific studies and/or just address vague generalized assumptions be dropped from the policy statement.
2. There are many sweeping and overgeneralized statements, and some untested assumptions that are misleading or inaccurate. I've identified these and made some suggested edits in the attached document.
3. In particular, there are many general references to "pollinators" and "pollinator habitat" but for most species we lack any information about population trends, and "habitat" is relevant to a single species. I've made suggestions in the text appropriate use of the scientific terminology.
4. Larimer County already has a significant proportion of land conserved as open space. There is no scientific evidence that preserving more land will protect pollinator populations. I suggest that this be dropped from such a policy unless you can provide the scientific basis to support the assumption that conserving more land will protect pollinators, including information on the species in question, evidence for declining populations, and causes of decline.
5. The cited C.R.S. does not seem relevant to pollinators, including references to historical/archaeological preservation as well as oil and gas development. I suggest this "whereas" statement be dropped or more appropriate statutes be referenced.
6. I do not see how this policy will "promote the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens of Larimer County. I suggest deleting or rewording to address the more specific benefits.

Sincerely,

Tasha Carr

Pollinator Species Protections Policy Statement May 2023\_CarrComments.docx  
28K

## **Pollinator Species Protections Policy Statement**

**DATE:** May 19, 2023

**PURPOSE:** To provide guidance to conserve and protect pollinator species in Larimer County.

**POLICY:** A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO, ESTABLISHED A "POLLINATOR SPECIES PROTECTIONS" POLICY

**WHEREAS**, populations of both native and non-native pollinators, including but not limited to bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles, flies, birds, and bats) are declining around the world in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of diverse habitats conversion and fragmentation of some native plant communities that support pollinator species due to changing land uses, or incompatible land management practices, disease, and invasive species; and climate change, is a threat may pose threats to both the intrinsic value of some pollinator species as well as the associated ecosystem functions and economic viability to which they contribute; and

**WHEREAS**, examples of such land use changes and management practices that are can be detrimental to pollinators include, but are not limited to: conversion of native habitats (native plant species, forbs, plant communities) to development, lawns, crops, etc.; fragmentation of habitat; invasive plant species; disease spread from non-native to native pollinators; improper pesticide and herbicide use; and

**WHEREAS**, pollinators contribute to the agricultural, economic and environmental benefits through the pollination of plant species; and

**WHEREAS**, it is desirable to promote land management activities that may help protect pollinator species and the native habitats to which they are obligate to carry out their lifecycles; and

**Commented [CNB1]:** The evidence for species declines for certain species is limited, and for most species we lack any information.

**Commented [CNB2]:** We should focus on the US since this is a complex and multifaceted problem and such generalized statements oversimplify the drivers and solutions.

**Commented [CNB3]:** There is no evidence for "the loss of diverse habitats that support pollinator species" as a group. I suggested a more accurate wording.

**Commented [CNB4]:** This is too sweeping of a statement. Climate is always changing, and the inferred negative effects of anthropogenic greenhouse gases on pollinator habitats is an assumption and poorly understood. Also, increasing temperatures can benefit some pollinator species.

**Commented [CNB5]:** This is too broad and vague.

**Commented [CNB6]:** This paragraph is somewhat repetitive, so I separated into conversion and fragmentation in first, and management practices in the subsequent paragraph.

**Commented [CNB7]:** It is not necessarily improper use, rather any use of harmful pesticides/herbicides can contribute to harms for susceptible pollinators that are exposed. However, one must weigh the pros and cons of these chemicals and encourage wise use, which comes down to integrated pest management and other BMPs, as addressed below.

**WHEREAS**, it is desirable to educate the public and visitors to Larimer County about the existence and environmental and economic importance of pollinators; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to this resolution the Board shall attempt and aspire to:

- a. Lead as an example for employing, incentivizing and disseminating information on best practices in landscaping plantings and the management of land and vegetation land management that favor promote or minimize harm to pollinator populationsspecies, techniques for minimizing pesticide use, limited and guidance for proper pesticide use, conservation of land, restoration practices, weed management through targeted application of herbicides and other integrated weed management practices; and
- b. Conserve and restore lands with native habitats that support native pollinator species; and
- c. educate residents on best practices around pesticide use and landscape alternatives that favor pollinators; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board, pursuant to C.R.S. 29-20-104(l)(c), (g) & (h), has the authority to plan for and regulate the use of land by preserving areas of historical importance, regulating the use of land on the basis of its impact on the community or surrounding areas, and otherwise planning for and regulating the use of land so as to provide planned and orderly use of land and protection of the environment in a manner consistent with constitutional rights; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined that it is desirable and beneficial to the citizens of Larimer County to establish and adopt by resolution a Pollinator Species Protections Policy Statement around protection of natural landscapes, open space and pollinator habitats, education of landowners and the public, and use of best practices in weed management, pesticide application and restoration of lands to native plant communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment and adoption of such a Pollinator Species Protections Policy would serve and promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Larimer County.

**Commented [CNB8]:** Larimer County already has a large percentage of land conserved and open spaces. What evidence that conserving more land will do anything to help at risk pollinator populations? This is an assumption that may not be valid. This is the problem with generalized statements.

**Commented [CNB9]:** See my previous comment. What native pollinators are you trying to preserve? This is too vague. Just preserving more land is not guaranteed to preserve more at-risk species of pollinators.

**Commented [CNB10]:** I do not read anything in this statute that gives the county authority to regulate activities that could affect pollinators or their habitats, except for a very broad interpretation of 1(g)l. I have copied the exact wording directly from C.R.S. 29-20-104 for the cited sections:

Section 1(c) Preserving areas of historical and archaeological importance. (not applicable)  
Section 1 (g) (l) Regulating the use of land on the basis of the impact of the use on the community or surrounding areas; (you would need more scientific information to prove impacts on the community)  
Section 1 (h) Regulating the surface impacts of oil and gas operations in a reasonable manner to address matters specified in this subsection (oil and gas operations not applicable to pollinators).

[Section 29-20-104 - Powers of local governments - definition, Colo. Rev. Stat. § 29-20-104 | Casetext Search + Citar](#)

**Commented [CNB11]:** Too vague and not supported by scientific evidence.

**Commented [CNB12]:** I don't see how this claim is valid. How will this promote public health safety and welfare?

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Larimer County, Colorado, that:

1. Policy Statement. It is the policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Larimer County, as set forth herein that: protection and enhancement of pollinator habitats is critical to the long-term environmental, economic and agricultural viability of Larimer County.
2. Larimer County will be a leader in the effort to conserve land and open space that contribute to pollinator habitat protections.
3. Landowners have obligations under State law and County regulation with regard to controlling weeds, and the expectation they will maintain the resources (water, soil, animals, plants, air and human resources) of the property wisely following best practices for use of herbicides and pesticides. The use of integrated pest management practices that limit the use of pesticides is encouraged.
4. Public Education and Information Campaign. The Board, with the primary assistance of the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Larimer County Office and through the use of County Staff as needed, shall support efforts to educate and inform the public of integrated pest management and integrated pollinator management.
5. The county will look to coordinate efforts where possible to deal with pest management in a way that limits disruption to pollinators.
6. Utilize pollinator-friendly plants in county landscape areas, coordinating with the appropriate local entities.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LARIMER COUNTY,  
COLORADO.

\_\_\_\_\_, Chair

**Commented [CNB13]:** What are "pollinator habitats"? What species? What habitat types? This is too vague as written.

**Commented [CNB14]:** This document does not provide evidence for how this policy statement is "critical to the long-term environmental, economic, and agricultural viability". This is merely an assertion based on over generalized statements about vague pollinators and pollinator habitats.

**Commented [CNB15]:** Again, Larimer County already has conserved a significant proportion of land as open space. Pollinator habitat protections is vague.

---

Lorenda Volker  
County Manager

## APPENDIX C

### Larimer County Climate, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Policy Review and Comments



Shelley Bayard de Volo &lt;bayardsh@co.larimer.co.us&gt;

## LC Sustainability Policy Document: comments for approval

**Rodger Ames** <rodger.b.ames@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 11, 2023 at 3:18 PM

To: Heidi Pruess &lt;pruesshb@co.larimer.co.us&gt;

Cc: Shelley Bayard de Volo &lt;sbayard@larimer.org&gt;, Shelby Sommer &lt;shelbyasommer@gmail.com&gt;

Hi Heidi,

Attached are the ESAB's edits and comments to the LC Sustainability policy document. I left them in track changes so you can see how our edits modify the original. There is one comment that shows up in the comments pane. The comment and all edits to the attached have been approved by the ESAB members present during the Oct. 10. meeting.

Thank you for your patience and input to help our Board move this along.

Best,  
Rodger Ames  
ESAB Chair

On Oct 5, 2023, at 8:35 AM, Heidi Pruess <[pruesshb@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:pruesshb@co.larimer.co.us)> wrote:

Thank you Rodger. I will attend the meeting virtually next week then. Many thanks for your effort!



**Heidi Pruess, CEP**  
Climate Smart and Sustainability Program Manager

200 W. Oak, Suite 2200  
PO Box 1190  
Fort Collins, CO 80522-1190  
W: (970-498-7138)  
[pruesshb@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:pruesshb@co.larimer.co.us)  
<https://www.larimer.gov/climate-and-sustainability>

### Find a Time to Meet with Me

Avoid parking tickets and traffic! [RideNoCo Trip Discovery Tool](#)

On Tue, Oct 3, 2023 at 10:06 PM Rodger Ames <[rodger.b.ames@gmail.com](mailto:rodger.b.ames@gmail.com)> wrote:

ESAB Members,

This email pertains to the third discussion item on the October agenda: the LC Sustainability Policy: comments for approval.

I attached a redline version of the County's sustainability document with edits from our Sept. meeting. I added numbers (1-10) next to what I feel are the more substantive edits that require Board approval.

We have a full agenda for our October meeting, and are facing a deadline to provide our comments on the Sustainability document to Heidi, so we will need to limit this agenda item to the approval process rather than continuing our discussion on the topic.

To keep the ball rolling, I will use the process of "unanimous consent" to approve each item. If we don't have consensus on a particular item approval will revert to the good ol' motion, second, and, if necessary, approval by show of hands. Hopefully this format will let us wrap up on time.

I suggest reviewing the CC4CA policy statement before the Oct meeting. I think the Board did a good job adding clarity to the County's document and helping align it with CC4CA policy. Thanks to everyone for your constructive input!

Best,

Rodger Ames  
ESAB Chair

P.S. George and Barry: I realize you missed the last meeting. If you have comments on the attached doc that you feel you "must" add, send them to me and I will try to work them in.

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 **Sustainability Policy 2023 ESAB edits 10-10-2023.docx**  
233K



LARIMER COUNTY POLICIES  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

REVISION DATE: January 31, 2023

REPLACEMENT OF: October 29, 2019 Environmental Responsibility Policy

REVIEW: Every 2 years in November, or as needed

REFERENCE: Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) 2021 Policy Statement

**PURPOSE:**

(1) Jim's comment: Motion to approve as a general comment from the Board.

This Climate, Environmental Stewardship, and Sustainability Policy will ensure that the County operates in a manner regarding consistent with mitigating and adapting to our changing climate, environmental stewardship responsibilities, and sustainable operations and decision making today and into the future. This policy is reflective of (2) current scientific findings and methods and consideration of community sustainability values. This policy addresses both County operations as well as decision making guidance that is in alignment with the Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) policy statement for which this county is a coalition member. This policy supports the work of the County's Internal Climate and Sustainability Action Plan as well as the Climate Smart and Future Ready initiative.

**POLICY:**

Larimer County is committed to demonstrating leadership on environmental stewardship and sustainability by operating in a manner that is actively promoting mitigation and adaptation toward a more resilient future. Operations and decision making will promote a strong commitment to the human health and the environment while being inclusive of our economic and social equity priorities.

The County will provide community leadership by reducing its environmental impact while benefiting the economy, and community members while providing sound stewardship of public resources. In order to meet or exceed these objectives, Larimer County will:

**Commented [1]:**

Natalie - purpose of policy. To inform staff on the county's policy on these matters. Informing the work of legislative staff that work with entities outside the county, including CC4CA.

Is this the only environmental policy for the county? Yes.

**Commented [2]:**

Jim's comments is that its too complicated, should be short and to the point and something that everyone can understand and communicate. Policy and objectives. Then targets should be in subsequent docs as objectives and targets.

**Commented [3]:**

Tasha - unclear what this means. Vague statement.

**Commented [4R3]:**

Matthew - maybe should say science publications?

**Commented [5R3]:**

Anna noted to not remove term science

**Commented [6]:**

Matthew - Can we really reduce? Maybe rather Minimize, mitigate.

**Commented [7R6]:**

JK noted that the goal really is to reduce

2. Meet or exceed all legal compliance obligations and (3) evaluate the risk of committing to or meeting voluntary commitments regarding environmental responsibility and sustainability.
3. (4) Provide balanced protection of public natural resources that the County manages with long-term economic trade-offs and community needs, supporting locally driven and designed programs.
4. Establish measurable objectives for evaluating environmental performance, prioritize policies that put equity at the center of decision-making and action, and evaluate and report results annually.
5. Develop, implement, and continuously improve existing programs for pollution prevention, energy conservation and natural resource protection that reflect current scientific findings and methods. (5) Emphasize climate specific impacts by supporting action toward:
  - a. (6) Advancing policy and programs with benefits to historically underserved communities.
  - b. Climate Pollution Reduction e.g. GHG, Ozone, Air toxics, Reduction of Green House Gas gas emissions, considering all lifecycle stages.
  - c. Reduction of emissions due to transportation related activities,
  - d. Integrated land and water use and transportation planning,
  - e. Solid waste diversion and fostering a circular economy,
  - f. Alignment of Green House Gas gas mitigation activities with partner entities,
  - g. (7) Prioritization-Consideration of environmental and health costs of actions,
  - h. Resilient and adaptive natural disaster preparedness and avoidance,
  - i. Efficient utilization of energy and water, prioritizing the (8) most efficient economically and least carbon intense renewable sources including and local renewable sources,
  - j. Advance clean water resources and healthy ecosystems through responsible land and water management and disaster recovery,
  - k. Investing in climate-positive and natural climate solutions,
  - l. Conserve, enhance and restore native and improve critical wildlife and plant habitat,
  - m. Maintenance of ecologically sustainable and economically sound agricultural, open, and forested lands,
  - n. (9) Consider the life-cycle, sourcing and managing hazardous Waste from emerging technologies.
  - m. Advancing policy and programs with benefits to historically underserved communities.
6. Foster a culture where all employees are educated, empowered, and encouraged to proactively perform work in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.
7. Collaborate with communities within Larimer County, in our Northern Colorado region, and throughout across the State to advance local climate mitigation and adaptation, sustainability and resilience.

**Commented [8]:**  
Consider adding something about hazardous waste

**Commented [9]:**  
Climate Pollution Reduction e.g. GHG, Ozone, Air toxics. This is the term now used by EPA, could impact funding

**Commented [10]:**  
Neighboring counties or throughout the state

8. Support initiatives with funding or seek financially enabling strategies to develop and deploy [\(10\) the actions/goals of the policy pollution reduction, conservation, and resilient actions.](#)
9. [\(11\) Provide balanced protection of public natural resources that the County manages with long term economic considerations and community needs, supporting locally driven and designed programs.](#)

This policy will be communicated to employees and contractors, community partners, and be available to the public.

Adopted this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

BY: Jody Shaelduck McNally  
Chair

ATTEST:

Elliott Lort  
Deputy Clerk

